

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SP

SUBJECT: BASQUE UNION OFFICIALS TO VISIT BRUSSELS

1. A DELEGATION OF A CATHOLIC-ORIENTED UNION, THE SOLIDARITY OF BASQUE WORKERS (SOLIDARIDAD DE TRABAJADORES VASCOS--STV), WILL BE IN BRUSSELS NEXT WEEK TO MEET WITH OFFICIALS OF THE THREE LABOR CENTERS TO WHICH THE STV IS AFFILIATED: THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU), THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (WCL), AND THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC).

2. ACCORDING TO JOHN VANDERVEKEN, ICFTU DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY, THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IS TO PLAN FOR AN STV CONGRESS, NOW SCHEDULED FOR SOMETIME IN OCTOBER. ALL THREE INTERNATIONAL LABOR CENTERS, AS WELL AS SOME INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIATS, WOULD SEND FRATERNAL DELEGATES TO SUCH A CONGRESS.

3. NEITHER VANDERVEKEN NOR JAN KULAKOWSKI, WCL DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY, KNEW FOR SURE WHO WOULD BE ON THE STV DELEGATION, BUT VANDERVEKEN SAID THAT THE VISITORS WOULD PROBABLY BE "TRADITIONAL" STV LEADERS, RATHER THAN ANY OF THE YOUNG TURKS WHO HAVE EMERGED

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RECENTLY.

4. BOTH VANDERVEKEN AND KULAKOWSKI CHARACTERIZE THE LABOR SITUATION IN SPAIN AS EXTREMELY FLUID, BUT FROM VARIOUS SPANISH CONTACTS THEY HAVE BEEN LED TO BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL IN THE NEAR FUTURE NORMALIZE THE STATUS OF THE NON-OFFICIAL LABOR UNIONS.

5. COMMENT: RECEIVING THE STV LEADERS IS CONSISTENT WITH ICFTU AND WCL POLICY OF SUPPORTING TRADE UNION PLURALISM IN SPAIN IN THE SHORT TERM WHILE KEEPING A LONG-TERM GOAL OF LABOR UNITY. THE BELIEF HERE IS THAT PLURALISM, COMBINED WITH NORMALIZATION OF THE LEGAL STATUS OF LABOR UNIONS, WILL WORK TO THE ADVANTAGE OF FREE TRADE UNIONISM AND TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE COMMUNISTS. HINTON

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